

## CLAIMS

1. A method for treating an individual in need of treatment for a capsaicin-responsive condition comprising
  - (a) applying a first composition comprising capsaicin or a capsaicin analog to a bodily surface;
  - (b) applying a second composition in which capsaicin has a solubility of at least about 10% w/w to the bodily surface; and
  - (c) removing the second composition from the bodily surface.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising administering an anesthetic to the individual prior to or simultaneously with the application of the first composition.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the anesthetic is contained in a lotion or gel.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the first composition is applied by affixing a skin-adherent patch containing the first composition to the bodily surface.
5. The method of claim 4 further comprising administering an anesthetic to the individual prior to or simultaneously with the application of the skin-adherent patch.
6. The method of claim 4 wherein the skin-adherent patch contains from about 5% to about 10% capsaicin.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein capsaicin has a solubility of at least about 20% (w/w) in the second composition.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein the second composition comprises at least 60% (w/w) polyethylene glycol.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the capsaicin-responsive condition is selected from the group consisting of neuropathic pain, pain produced by mixed nociceptive and/or neuropathic mixed etiologies, inflammatory hyperalgesia, dermatitis, pruritis, itch, psoriasis, warts, headaches, wrinkles and skin cancer.

10. A method for cleansing a bodily surface that has been contacted with capsaicin or a capsaicin analog comprising:

- a) applying to the bodily surface a composition in which capsaicin has a solubility of at least about 10% w/w; and
- b) removing said composition from the bodily surface.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the substance is capsaicin.

12. The method of claim 10 wherein capsaicin has a solubility of at least about 20% w/w in the composition.

13. The method of claim 10 wherein the composition comprises about 60 to about 99 percent w/w polyethylene glycol.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the composition further contains about 0.1 to about 4 percent w/w thickening agent, and the balance water.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein the composition contains about 80 to about 99 percent w/w polyethylene glycol.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the composition further contains about 0.1 to about 2 percent w/w polyacrylate thickening agent and the balance water.

17. The method of claim 13 wherein the composition contains about 87 to about 91 percent w/w polyethylene glycol.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the composition further contains about 0.3 to about 1.5 percent w/w polyacrylate thickening agent and the balance water.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the composition is at a pH of about 7.0 to about 7.7.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the composition further contains about 0.01 to about 0.03 percent w/w butylated hydroxyanisole, about 0.02 to about 0.2 percent w/w EDTA/EDTA salts, and the balance water.